

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Process for the treatment of at least one of the electrodes (cathode and/or anode) of a fuel cell, before ~~said cell is operated and before or after~~ said electrode is placed in said cell, consisting ~~[[in]]~~ of forming a biofilm on at least part of the surface of said electrode, by immersing said electrode in a medium capable of causing the growth of biofilms, said biofilm being intended to catalyse the reaction at the electrode, and consisting simultaneously ~~[[in]]~~ of subjecting said electrode to ~~a polarization~~ a bias potential.

2. (Original) Treatment process according to claim 1, in which the medium capable of causing the growth of biofilms is chosen from: natural water, such as river water, well water or seawater; industrial water, and water derived from a culture medium.

3. (Original) Treatment process according to claim 2, in which the medium capable of causing the growth of biofilms is seawater.

4. (Previously Presented) Treatment process according to claim 1, in which the medium capable of causing the growth of biofilms is a circulating medium.

5. (Previously Presented) Treatment process according to claim 1, in which the electrode is a cathode.

6. (Original) Process according to claim 5, in which the polarization potential applied to the cathode has a value ranging from 0.5 V to 0.0 V with respect to a saturated calomel reference electrode (SCE).

7-18. (Canceled)